

**Progress on implementation of the organizational resilience management system
Progress on implementation of the storm Sandy after action review recommendations**

Statement of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

*ACABQ report: A/68/780;
Related reports of the Secretary-General: A/68/715 and A/68/732*

6 March 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the reports of the Advisory Committee on progress on implementation of the organizational resilience management system and storm Sandy after action review recommendations.

Regarding ORMS, the Advisory Committee notes that the organizational resilience management system ORMS has been fully implemented at Headquarters and welcomes the progress achieved thus far.

The Committee is of the view that the governance arrangements of the initiative appear to be satisfactory and will support effective coordination of emergency preparedness and management activities. It also welcomes the progress made in developing and delivering training programmes to enhance emergency preparedness, response and recovery across the Secretariat. With regard to performance management, the Committee trusts that a framework for assessing the effectiveness of the organizational resilience management system will be approved and operationalized as soon as possible.

The Advisory Committee notes with appreciation that the implementation of the initiative draws upon existing resources and capacity within the Secretariat and that it will continue to be implemented using existing resources. At the same time, the Committee continues to emphasize the importance of tracking the resources dedicated to this purpose by various departments/offices. This includes, for instance, the costs of the establishment and operations of the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre and the Emergency Operations Centre.

In this connection, the Committee was informed that the costs of the implementation of the ORMS initiative and of emergency management and emergency preparedness activities comprised both direct and indirect costs, some of which could were not readily identifiable. While recognizing that it may not be possible to identify all indirect costs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to track the resources dedicated to these activities in various departments/offices and to provide it with a consolidated view of the actual overall costs of emergency management and emergency preparedness activities in the context of the proposed programme budget.

Finally, the Committee notes that the focus of implementation will now shift to other United Nations duty stations and entities, and looks forward to receiving information on the implementation of the next phases of ORMS.

Mr Chairman,

Let me now turn to the Advisory Committee's report on progress on the implementation of the storm Sandy after action review recommendations.

Concerning physical infrastructure remedial work, the Advisory Committee notes that, as of January 2014, the Organization had recovered \$64.2 million in costs incurred and anticipated further recoveries of up to \$12 million in the near future. It also notes the statement of the Secretary-General that the Organization can finance the remaining recoverable work from the insurance recoveries already received under its insurance programmes. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2014-2015, comprehensive information on the remedial work undertaken, as well as a detailed accounting of the related expenditures and insurance recoveries..

With regard to physical infrastructure mitigation activities, the Advisory Committee notes that the total amount of \$6.1 million approved for this purpose had effectively been committed or disbursed by the end of 2013 and welcomes the progress made towards completion of this work.

Concerning flood damage insurance coverage, the Advisory Committee notes that, in light of the current situation of the insurance market in the New York area, the Organization was not able to secure additional coverage above the current level of \$20 million at a reasonable cost. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to closely monitor the insurance market with a view to securing adequate flood damage coverage at a reasonable cost for all United Nations installations.

The report of the Advisory Committee also contains a number of observations and recommendations on the actions taken to implement the recommendations of the after action review, in particular in the areas of information technology disaster recovery, the resilience of the iSeek and United Nations websites, and crisis communications. The Advisory Committee will comment further on arrangements for information technology disaster recovery in the context of its consideration of the report on the revised ICT strategy to be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly no later than at its sixty-ninth session, as requested by the Assembly in its resolution 67/254.